

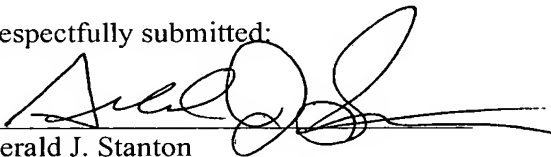
**Remarks/Arguments:**

Owing to a Preliminary Amendment dated January 22, 2002, claims 1-40 were pending in this application. A Restriction Requirement dated June 29, 2006 required election among inventions I (claims 1-7), II (claim 8) and III (claims 9-40). The Restriction Requirement further divided Invention III into subcombinations IA (claims 9-18 and 24-25) and IIA (claims 19-23 and 26-40).

The Applicant hereby elects Invention III and subcombination IIA, claims 19-23 and 26-40. All other claims are canceled by this amendment without prejudice.

The Applicant respectfully requests examination of the elected claims on the merits.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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July 31, 2006  
Date

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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